

### 3 Jacksonville Historical Overview

Jacksonville is a 19th century village that only recently has emerged as a rural center, presently with some 50 businesses of various types. Its antecedents trace back to mid- to late-18th century tobacco farming, with the roads through the present Four Corners intersection being "rolling" roads on which casks of tobacco were rolled to market. In addition, Jarrettsville Pike formed a part of the route north from Baltimore to York, Pennsylvania.

The name "Jacksonville" did not appear on maps until the late 1800s. A post office was established at the intersection of Sweet Air Road and Jarrettsville Pike on 1 March 1888 (Four Corners). It was operated at that site for 17 years, then abolished, with the mail sent some 10 miles west to the Phoenix Post Office, Phoenix then being a fairly substantial paper mill village. The post office was subsequently (1970s) transferred back to Jacksonville, but with the name "Phoenix" Post Office.

In 1902, J. (James) Perry Carroll established Carroll's Store, the only business in the immediate area (Figure 1). Over the years, descendants of J. Perry Carroll operated the business, under the name Carroll's Food Market and Package Store. These included his son Miles Carroll, Sr., and Miles Carroll's sons Miles (Buck) Carroll, Jr. and J. Perry Carroll. They operated the store until 31 December 1986, at which point they retired. In 1988, the property was sold to P.F. Obrecht and Sons, who built the Paper Mill Village shopping center on the site.



Figure 1: Carroll's Store in Jacksonville, ca. 1920. View along the present Jarrettsville Pike to the north from Sweet Air Road (photo courtesy of the Baltimore County Public Library).

Carroll's store was the only business at the intersection for a long period. The Four Corners Inn was built in 1930. Originally, this business was a garage, gas station and confectionery shop. This property was purchased in 1933 by Abraham Goldberg who, with his brother Charles, developed the structure into the final version of the Four Corners Inn, a restaurant and bar. This establishment was well-known in the area for its long-running weekend production of "The Drunkard", a 19th century melodrama. This business burned down and was subsequently replaced (late 1970s) by an Exxon service station. Other early businesses were a pharmacy (built by Dr. Oscar Shapiro), several gasoline service stations, a bank, and Priceless Hardware store (owned by Mr. Edgar Price), plus a veterinary hospital (built by Dr. Mules), and Zaccari's Toy store. The pharmacy burned down in the early 1980s and was replaced by Dr. Shapiro with a modern structure.

In 1977, Mr. Donald Ready and partners built the Manor Shopping Center on the southeast quadrant of Four Corners. This development included a large Safeway grocery store and numerous small businesses which catered to the needs of the local citizens.

There is little remaining trace of the homes and businesses of the early settlers of Jacksonville, although there are several descendants of the Jacksons and other early settlers still living in the area. The present Rural Commercial Center of Jacksonville would certainly astound those people who lived here in the 1920s and earlier. It is now a more intensive business area. The objective of this plan is to provide a basis for local citizens and Baltimore County government to maintain the Four Corners area as a small Rural Commercial Center, as it has been since the very early years.